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gar Square.

The Evening World Prints Asso-

ciated Press News.

PLAY VERSUS PRECOCITY.

Precocity has its diversities. Yesterday

was the story of a fifteen-year-old wife

husband whose eighteen-year-old wife

was hunting for him with the aid of de-

fectives. To-day there is printed the tale

of three bold, bad villains of twelve, thirteen

and fourteen years, who had drawn lots

to decide which should have the honor

of shooting a mutual enemy of sixteen.

They had combined their capital in the

purchase of a sixty-cent pistol, but

partnership in crime couldn't get to the

extent of all three pulling the trigger.

The Evening World cheerfully sug-

gested yesterday that the search for that

extremely young husband be directed

among the boys' playgrounds. In all

seriousness to-day it reflects upon the

unfortunate fact that for so many boys—

and for girls, too—the streets are the only

playgrounds which are readily available.

For this, of course, municipal short-

sightedness is chiefly responsible, as it is

for many other wants which in this big

town are unprovided.

But it is not too late to make up a large

part of the lack of playgrounds. If the city

will stop to realize what the need is and

act accordingly, it will find mingling in

happy sport and comradeship many of the

boys who might otherwise get into the

border-ruffian style of diversion exhib-

ited by the trio with the sixty-cent pistol.

Good opportunities for indulgence in

helpful play would undoubtedly do

much to counteract a tendency towards

unwholesome precocity.

A REBUKE ON THE STAGE.

The Russian Princess PRONATSELOV,

who chooses to figure as a song and

dance attraction in Berlin variety the-

atres, stopped singing long enough to

administer a rebuke to two admirers who

let their enthusiasm get the better of

their discretion.

She was in the middle of a song when

two swells arose and offered her a

banquet. She paused and invited the

ladies to the stage, where she offered to

each a small coin. On their indignant

turning away she called out to them:

"Know enough next time to not inter-

rupt the performance."

The singer is accused of being sensa-

tional. But in this instance she was

right. Others besides the two objects of

her rebuke will do well to remember the

principle her set was meant to emphasize.

It might even be remembered in New

York.

If Brooklyn hadn't had a water famine

Royal's polishing works would have run

all day. Then Workman JAMES SMITH

wouldn't have been at liberty to walk

down Kent avenue in the middle

of the afternoon and catch baby

FUCKMAN, who fell from a top-floor win-

dow at No. 227. From the baby's point

of view this is exceedingly interesting.

Viceroy LI HUNG CHANG says that

China is friendly to foreigners and desires

to protect them. His friendliness re-

minds one of the lion which swallowed

SKETCHES BY M. QUAD.

He Wasn't Kicking.

It was on an Erie train coming East the

other day. A young man of about twenty-

four, who was evidently a farmer and had

a seat in the smoking-car, turned to the

man behind him, who happened to be

from Jersey City, and, holding out a sil-

ver dollar in his hand, he asked:

"Mister, is that dollar all right?"

"No, sir," replied the other after a

brief test, "this is a bogus dollar."

"And how's this?" continued the

young man, as he passed over a second.

"Bogus, too."

"And this?"

"Off the same piece."

"Well, here's two more."

"Those are all right, sir. You evi-

dently changed a five-dollar bill for some

one?"

"Yes."

"Stranger, probably?"

"Never saw him before."

"And all you got out of it was two

good dollars?"

"Pears that way."

"Well, it's a shame to beat a man that

way!" indignantly exclaimed the Jersey-

ite as he returned the coins.

"Oh, I ain't doin' no kickin'," serenely

replied the young man. "I'd been

carryin' that old counterfeit bill over

two years lookin' for a sucker, and I'm

jest two good dollars ahead of the game!"

M. QUAD.

THE CLEANER.

For three hours I watched the big fire in

Brooklyn last night, so impatient with the

firemen whose efforts were practically use-

less, owing to the lack of water. They could

do nothing, but watch the ravages of the

flames and speculate upon how long it would

take to burn out. And all the damage, I was

told, was caused by a light cigar carelessly

thrown on a mat.

I am told that Mary, the only daughter

of Mrs. H. Le Roy Jones, is engaged to William

H. Bradford, Jr. No date has been set for the

wedding, which will be a swell affair, the

young couple being well known in fashionable

circles.

For the first time Bellevue Hospital has a

woman attendant in the apothecary shop-

ping department. It is Miss Helen W. Warner, a young woman of

great ability. I am told, and she has served

three years as nurse and assistant matron.

I see that the ship-news office at the R-

atory will have to go, to make way for a ferry

to Ellis Island, unless some other way can

be found. The office has been a big

blow, as the little office has been a

familiar spot to them for years. Many a

good story has been told within its walls and vari-

ous schemes concocted.

The Policeman's Varied Lot.

[From the Chicago Press.]

The police are not kept busy chasing

bathers off the wharves these days, but they

might chase the profane swearers off the

corners.

Wise Words to the Foolish.

[From the Chicago Press.]

People who contemplate hanging them-

selves should lose no time in purchasing the

necessary rope. The Cordage Trust is

just about to raise prices.

Harvard's Injured Dignity.

[From the Boston Herald.]

The Harvard students threaten to expel

the entire class unless some steps will

be made by the professors for the way in

which they have been behaving of late.

Ever Visit Boston?

[From the Washington Star.]

The Boston people who are laboring with

storekeepers to have them sell no cigarettes

to girls should also labor some with the girls

to persuade them not to buy them.

Giving Them Free Rope.

[From the Cincinnati Post-Star.]

We oppose capital punishment and would

not, were we on a jury, assent to the death

penalty. But people that believe in hanging

are, so far as we are concerned, welcome to be

hung.

Fill O. K.—Make 'Em Swallow.

[From the Baltimore Herald.]

LEND YOUR AID.

Make It a Merry Christmas for Poor Children.

Swell the Fund to Buy Them Holiday Gifts.

You Can Spare a Little to Make Some Child Happy.

Christmas is barely a month distant and

thousands of poor children are looking to you

to make it the happiest day in their lives.

You can readily spare a small sum which

will help to purchase suitable gifts to be dis-

tributed from several points in this city.

Everybody rejoices at Christmas time, ex-

cept these poor wretches who not only receive

no gifts but are forced to contemplate the

pleasure of their more fortunate brethren,

who revel in the possession of some coveted

present.

Now don't delay. There is room for all on

the list of helpers, and let your name be

added as quickly as possible.

George Finn, of 37 Wall street, is not

authorized to collect subscriptions for

THE EVENING WORLD'S Christmas

Tree Fund.

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C. B.....1.00

Santa Claus.....1.00

Mr. Connor's Check.

The subscription list today is headed with

a \$50 contribution from Mr. Washington E.

Connor, the well-known stock broker. This

sum is being used to purchase gifts for the

poor children of the city. The Christmas

Tree Fund, and asks an example for others to

follow.

Money and Good Wishes.

Inclosed please find 10 cents, which I cheer-

fully donate to the Christmas Tree Fund for

the poor children of the city. I am, Sir, very